

WAOW Channel 9 Wausau

Area congressman returns from Iraq

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By Katie Rosenberg

WASHINGTON DC (WAOW) -- Congressman Dave Obey recently returned from a trip to Iraq.

Obey says he's always believed that the U.S. needs a timetable for a withdrawal. Now he says this trip convinced him that the Iraqis are ready for American troops to start leaving.

However he believes that even when the war ends, American soldiers could face a lifetime of problems. "I think people should be very concerned about the long term health impact on our American soldiers," Obey says. "That air over there is filled with dust and sand they're breathing that in all the time. I think there are going to be substantial respiratory problems experienced by a lot of soldiers."

Obey and 5 other House Appropriations Committee members made the trip last Thursday. They arrived back in the United States Tuesday.